

conditions selected to be 5° C lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for said nucleic acid at a defined ionic strength and pH.

32. (New) A vector according to claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid encodes SEQ ID NO:2.

33. (New) A vector according to claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid consists of SEQ ID NO:1.

34. (New) A vector according to claim 31, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

35. (New) A recombinant expression vector comprising a promoter operably linked to an expressed polynucleotide which hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:4 or conservatively modified SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said polypeptide mediates the proteolytic removal of an AAX tripeptide from a prenylated CAAX protein and said highly stringent conditions comprise hybridization and wash conditions selected to be 5° C lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for said nucleic acid at a defined ionic strength and pH.

36. (New) A vector according to claim 35, wherein the nucleic acid encodes SEQ ID NO:4.

37. (New) A vector according to claim 35, wherein the nucleic acid consists of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (New) A vector according to claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

39. (New) A recombinant cell transduced with the vector of claim 31.

40. (New) A recombinant cell transduced with the vector of claim 32.